

Newcastle Family History Society Inc.



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Library Hours:

Thurs: 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Sat: 10.00am – 3.00pm

ABN: 43 533 036 199

WANTED FOR YOUR JOURNAL

The theme for our September Journal 247 is:

Down t' Pit

Deadline for articles: **Saturday 27 July 2024**

NEWSLETTER

Number 236

June 2024

Report on Annual General Meeting (Tues 7 May, 2024)

Position	Elected Members 2024/5
President	Mel Woodford
Vice President	Rosalie Bunn
Secretary	Karen Smith
Treasurer	No Nomination received
General Management Committee	Laraine Cross Sharyn Boyce Kirstie Carrick
Assistant Secretary	No Nomination received
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Hughes
Librarian	Jim MacDougall
Publications Officer	Jane Ison
Journal Editor	Margaret Ashford
Research Co-ordinator	Laraine Cross

Newcastle Family History Society Inc.

Maintenance Officer	Karilyn Pawley
IT Officer	Clive Maddocks
Membership Registrar	Sharyn Boyce
Facebook Admin	Mel Woodford Ros Cheetham
Sandgate Group Co-ordinator	Margaret Ashford
Website Co-ordinator	Glenn Matthews
Guest Speaker Co-ordinator	Mel Woodford
Snippers Co-Ordinator	Karilyn Pawley
Cleaning Co-ordinator	No Nomination received
Newsletter Editor	Lea Harris
Publicity Officers	Karen Smith Raelene Pratt Jo Newton
Courses, Excursions & Events	NFHS Management Committee

Treasurer's Position Vacant Following AGM

What Happens Now?

As our NFHS Constitution only permits Management Committee Members to hold the same position for a period of four consecutive terms (a term being the period between AGMs) we now find ourselves in the position of having no treasurer.

Our secretary received no nominations for the position nor did a call for nominations from the floor at the AGM result in filling the position.

As it is not possible for a society such as ours to function without a treasurer, we have taken advice as to a constitutionally acceptable way of temporarily overcoming our predicament.

Marie Hughes, our immediate past treasurer, has self-nominated for the non-elected position of Assistant Treasurer. In this capacity, Marie will ensure continuity of our financial affairs, however, she will no longer be an elected member of our management committee which leaves us one member short of the necessary seven committee members required according to our 2021 Constitution. Marie will continue to attend our management meetings as a guest but will have no voting rights.

Please be assured that the NFHS will continue to function at its usual high standard, and we will seek further advice from Fair Trading when our annual reports are submitted shortly. A copy of the relevant section of the 2021 Constitution is provided below.

Newcastle Family History Society Inc.

15. Composition and membership of Committee

1. The Committee is to consist of:

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
General Member 1
General Member 2
General Member 3

Each of whom is to be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association under clause 15 or appointed by the Committee to a casual vacancy.

In the event of the Committee being deadlocked, the President has a casting vote.

2. A Committee member must be eighteen (18) years of age or over.
3. The Secretary's position can be split into two distinct roles: Secretary and Minute Secretary. The Secretary will hold voting rights on the Committee.
4. The executive and elected General Committee Members have a maximum number of four (4) consecutive terms for which a Committee member may hold the same office.
5. Each member of the Committee is, subject to this constitution, to hold office until immediately before the election of Committee members at the annual general meeting next following the date of the member's election, and is eligible for re-election.

Note: To be eligible for election you must be a financial member for two (2) years.

6. The holders of non-elected position, eg Librarian, Membership Registrar, are invited to all Committee meetings and are able to speak on their area. They do not have voting rights.

President's Report for the Annual General Meeting **Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 7.30pm**

As I report to you this year I do so with a much more positive outlook for the Newcastle Family History Society.

The past few years have had their challenges. Our Society, like so many other Family History Societies, has felt the negative impact of diminishing numbers of members and visitors, rising overheads, and the aftermath of Covid which has brought considerable change. It has also brought a great deal of uncertainty.

These years have taught us that it is essential to adapt the way we function so that we embrace change in a positive manner to better serve the needs of our members and the community. The NFHS is always keen to espouse new things which will help us move forward.

We do not have to look far to find innovative ways in which our Society excels. Our initiative to offer hybrid monthly meetings together with recorded presentations on our YouTube Channel provides excellent opportunities for members to access our wonderful guest speakers. Our new podcasting initiative also provides a new and exciting way to share information and expertise with our members and the family history community in general.

Newcastle Family History Society Inc.

We have a lot of followers from other Societies, and even from overseas! We showcase Newcastle as a society of excellence.

Our NFHS website keeps everyone abreast of our activities and provides our members with up-to-date reports on our Management Committee Meetings, our financial activities, membership, correspondence, and quarterly reports from each of our groups. Our many exchange journals are now also available to read at home via the Members' Area of the website. We now also have a second website entitled *Female Convicts of the Hunter Valley* which provides information about this important part of our history which has been so thoroughly researched by Society members.

Our online shop now offers downloadable publications which is a giant step forward towards greater sales. Purchasers have immediate downloads with no postage costs. There is also no cost to the Society and a lot less work for our Publications Officer.

For these advances in our technology, we owe a debt of thanks to the expertise and commitment of our IT Officer and our Webmaster.

It is pleasing to note that our membership is increasing on a monthly basis, and we are finding enthusiastic new members attending our Special Interest Groups, courses, and excursions. We are also finding a return to busy Thursday afternoons at the Society. Our increased membership is often a direct result of open days, tours or courses which have been run at or by the Society where visitors have recognised how we can help them with their family history pursuits.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to all the groups who work so hard to keep our society functioning at such a high level. The eTeam, the Library Group, Snippers, Publications, the Sandgate Group, and the Research Group, all contribute to our family history knowledge. Special Interest Groups bring us together and create a sense of community around our shared love of family history. A huge thank you to the library volunteers who give their time so freely. I also want to acknowledge those who handle the technology, communications, and financial matters - your contributions are essential in keeping the society running efficiently. I am incredibly grateful to all those who contribute so much of their time to making our society run so smoothly.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Management Committee members who have always worked together in a collegial manner to ensure that our Society functions at its optimum at all times. Our incoming Committee, to be elected shortly, will continue to ensure that the NFHS operates at its best throughout the remainder of this year and well into 2025 with a team of committed members leading the way.

Mel Woodford

President, NFHS

May 2023-May 2024

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Zoom link for June Monthly Meeting

Hear member, Julie Keating, speak on Frederick Menkens, Newcastle Architect.

Time: Jun 4, 2024 02:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85154639138?pwd=M2p6S21BZXc5QkR5Y1IrTkVWM1NWQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 5463 9138

Passcode: 117682

Mel Woodford.

Events and Outings	
Date	
25 May	Digital Orientation session
28 May	Whitsunday Caledonian newsletter emailed
4 June	Monthly meeting—Julie Keating—Frederick Menkens, Architect
14 June	Excursion to Old Courthouse, Minmi and lunch (see below)
2 July	Monthly meeting—Christmas in July and trivia with John and Judy Mulhearn
27 July	Articles due for Journal 247
6 August	Monthly meeting—Dr Ann Hardy—Very early days of Newcastle
28 August	Lamas Caledonian newsletter emailed
3 September	Monthly meeting-Rod Noble-History of Newcastle Trades Hall Council
14 September	Mini State Conference
1 October	Monthly meeting—Dr Rosalie Bunn—50th Anniversary of the Open Foundation
12 October	Print Orientation session
26 October	Digital Orientation session
26 October	Articles due for Journal 248
5 November	Monthly meeting—Assoc. Prof Nancy Cushing— 'The Australian Horse at War'
28 November	Martinmas Caledonian newsletter emailed
1 December	Christmas Fair (Christmas Once Upon a Time)
6 December	Christmas lunch


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Reminder for upcoming excursion. RSVPs required by 7 June:

Old Minmi Courthouse

Excursion


Friday 14 June 2024
11.00am



The owner will give us a tour of the old courthouse and put on display old documents and artefacts he found on the premises. Menu will cater to gluten free needs. If we can get 40 members to come he will close off bookings just for us which will mean we'll have more time to look around with no other distractions.

RSVP to Rosalie by 7 June at
nfhvicepresident@gmail.com

40 Church Street
Minmi
minmicourthouse.com.au



Podcasts

A few more podcasts have been recorded since the last newsletter. These are available for you to enjoy on the Newcastle Family History Society website by clicking the links below or visiting our webpage and selecting the Podcasts tab from the home page. You can also find these podcasts on services such as Spotify, Podbean, Google, Apple and Amazon:

‘Notable Novocastrians’

The first Australian to be awarded a PhD in geology, the first woman to be appointed Dean of Science in an Australian university and the first woman in Australia, maybe the world, to win a Rotary Foundation Fellowship, Dr Jude Conway recounts the brilliant life and achievements of Professor Beryl Nashar. [To listen click here.](#)

‘The Wonderful World of Genealogy’

How, When & Why Did Our Ancestors Come to Australia? This series is currently in recess but will return soon.

‘What are you looking at?’

In this series, Jane Ison critically scrutinises the records pertaining to the boys and girls admitted to the Industrial Schools and Reformatories of NSW - the Vernon for boys and Newcastle, Biloela and Shaftesbury for girls. Episode 1 focuses on the main admission register for girls - The Register of Warrants (NRS-14722). [To listen click here.](#)

‘Felonious Females’ - convict women sent to Newcastle and the Hunter Valley

In this episode our member, Dr Jude Conway, recounts the life and times of the famous Molly Morgan – ‘Queen of the Hunter’. [To listen click here.](#)

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Journal News

Journal 246 “Medical Matters” has now been printed and is on its way to members by email, Australia Post or for pickup in the rooms at the Mechanics Institute. As this theme was so popular a decision was made to continue it in the December Issue, Number 248.

There is still time to submit articles for **Journal 247 “Down t’Pit”** as the deadline for submissions is **27 July**. What’s your mining connection? Did your people mine for yellow gold or black gold? Maybe even salt? Where did they mine? Success and failure; joy and tragedy; any mine, anywhere, any time. How about mining your family mining history and sharing it in the September journal? Please send your story to us by email to the editor or place in the pigeonhole in the library.

Month	Newsletter	Journal
July	15 Jun	
August	13 Jul	
September	10 Aug	27 Jul
October	14 Sep	
November	12 Oct	
December	16 Nov	26 Oct

Submission of Articles: For all issues, you can send your typed item to nfhseditor@gmail.com or deliver it to the Society library addressed to the Editor. We can also accept handwritten items if that’s your preference. Margaret Ashford (Editor, eTeam)

Membership Matters

Membership continues to hover at just under 300 people, although there are still a few members who have not paid their membership for the 2024/5 year. We rely on income to pay rent, insurance, electricity etc so support for the society is valued.

There is still a call out to find a new Membership Registrar. Anyone who is interested in that position can contact Sharyn Boyce at nfhsmembership@gmail.com

Mini Conference

SAVE THE DATE!!!

**Saturday 14 September—9.45am onwards
for our Mini State Conference in the NFHS rooms
(via Zoom)**

\$10 per person

**Great speakers and topics, raffles, morning/afternoon
teas and an opportunity to share a fun day with other
members**

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Courses and Learning

Special Interest Groups

Members of the Society are welcome to join one or more groups and share their knowledge as well as learn something new. All the groups meet in the NFHS rooms, 68 Elder Street, Lambton, monthly at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated. Groups and contact details are below. Please email the facilitator to join a group.

Group	Meeting date	Facilitator	Contact email
Convicts in Australia	1 st Tuesday	Laraine Cross	nfhsresearch78@gmail.com
Scottish Family Research	2 nd Tuesday—1.00 pm—February to November	Mel Woodford	nfhsresident@gmail.com
English Ancestors	3 rd Tuesday	Karen Smith	abc26715@bigpond.net.au
DNA	3 rd Tuesday—1.00 pm	Sandra Jones	sjones11@bigpond.net.au
Irish Ancestors	4 th Tuesday—suspended till August	Pat Healion	pat.healion1@gmail.com
Cemetery Research	1 st Thursday—suspended till August	Pat Healion	pat.healion1@gmail.com
Ancestry Users	2 nd Thursday—February to November	Mel Woodford	nfhsresident@gmail.com
Scrapbooking	4 th Thursday	Karen Smith	abc26715@bigpond.net.au

Cemetery Research SIG and Irish SIG

Please note that both these SIG groups have been suspended until August 2024. Please watch the Facebook group as to when they will resume.

Pat Healion (Facilitator)

The Caledonian

The next issue of the *Caledonian* Scottish Newsletter will be emailed on 28 May 2024, being the Scottish quarter day of Whitsunday.

Reminder that if you would like to be included on the email list for this newsletter, please send an email to Lea on nfhsnewsletter@gmail.com Scottish SIG group

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Library Roster for June

Volunteers are urgently needed for library duties on some Saturdays in June. Can you help to keep the library open?

Library Roster

Saturday Library Roster

Morning 9.45am to 12.30pm

Afternoon 12.30pm to 3.00pm

1 June am	Karen S	Chris B
1 June pm	Karen S	Sandra J
8 June am	Library	Closed
8 June pm	Library	Closed
15 June am	Volunteer	Volunteer
15 June pm	Noelene L	Volunteer
22 June am	Marie H	Volunteer
22 June pm	Marie H	Jude C
29 June am	Volunteer	Volunteer
29 June pm	Volunteer	Volunteer

Thursday Library Roster

12.45 to 3.00pm

6 June	Alison M	Clelia P
13 June	Jane I	Bert & Rosalie
20 June	Marilyn M	Jane I
27 June	Karen S	Rosalie B

Welcome to our new Members

#1330 Leurnyn McInnes, Heatherbrae

#1331 Narelle Walsh, Salamander Bay

#1332 Ross Coates, Bar Beach, NSW

#1333 Allen Sutton, Beresfield NSW

#1334 Kim Shields, Wallsend NSW

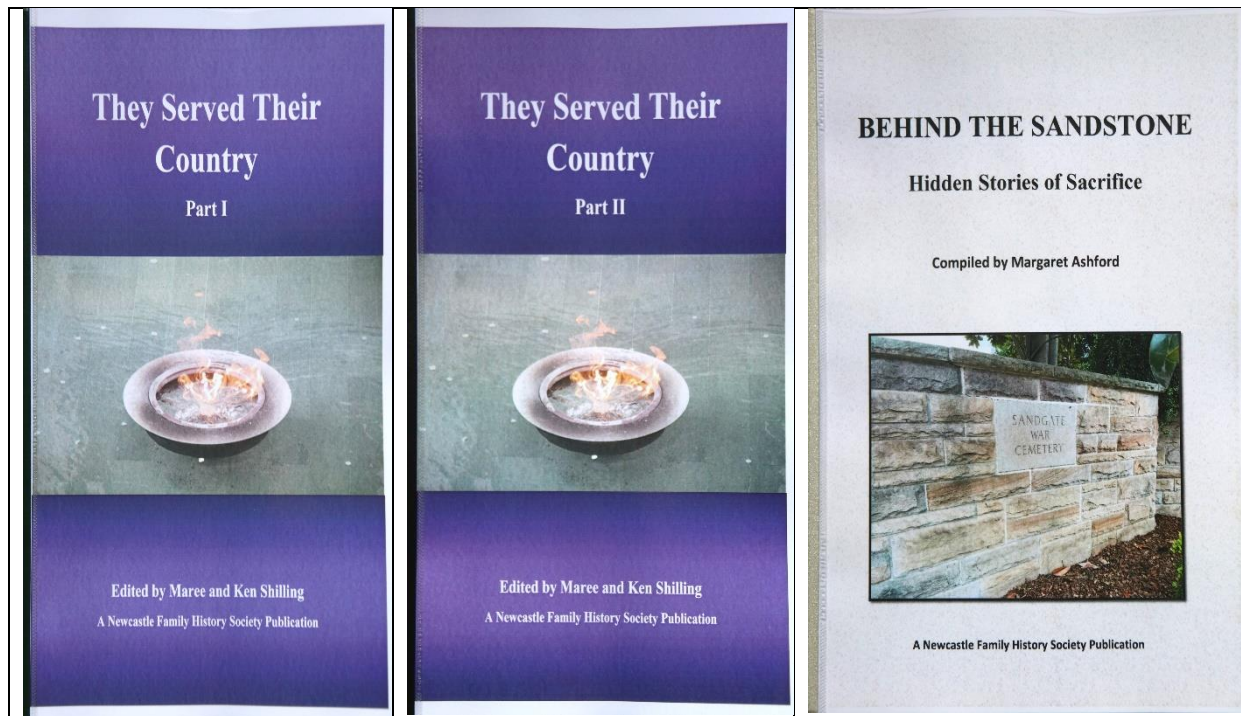
Publications

Recent Book Launch

On behalf of all the book compilers, thank you to those members who attended the book launch on Friday 3 May. It was a successful day, despite our sadness that our lovely Maree was not there to celebrate with us. All the books are available for purchase through the usual purchase methods. The after-launch prices are: They Served Their Country Vols 1 and 2 – \$50 each Behind the Sandstone – Hidden Stories of Sacrifice – \$30

Margaret Ashford has provided an excellent account of the contents of these publications in the June Journal.

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Raffle Winner



Congratulations to our Mother's Day Raffle winner Wendy James (Blue ticket F24)

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Miscellaneous

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR

Do you enjoy helping out your Society? Do you have a few spare hours each month? Do you have a basic knowledge of Excel spreadsheets? If you answered yes, then you could be the person the Society needs. We are looking for a new Membership Registrar. This role is a voluntary position and is NOT a Management Committee role. An added bonus—the computer is supplied by the Society for you to carry out this role. If you are interested in taking on this role, please email me at Membership Registrar.

Sharyn Boyce (Membership Registrar)

Monthly Meetings on YouTube

A reminder that at our monthly meetings, guest speakers are now recorded, and the presentations can be viewed on the Society's YouTube channel. This is a fabulous way for those who are either distance members or just can't make it to the meeting, to be able to still enjoy our speakers. Or even if you were at the meeting, you may wish to listen to the presentation again. To view these, [click here](#).

Mel Woodford (President)

New website!!!!

The Female Convicts of the Hunter Valley website provides information about the female convicts who came to the Hunter Valley, north of Sydney, New South Wales, at some stage during their lives. Thanks to Glenn Matthews for all his hard work to bring this website to fruition. To view this fantastic new resource, [click here](#). Mel Woodford (President)

Snippers Group

Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Newcastle Family History Society Inc. Copyright Licencing Agreement

Previous newsletters have given an explanation about our new Newcastle Family History Society Inc. Copyright Licencing Agreement and a copy of the actual Agreement. Thanks to all those who have already signed and submitted the Agreement. A reminder to those who have not as yet done this, you still can.

Mel Woodford (President)

Newcastle Family History Society Inc.

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events						10am-3pm—Library open
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10.30am - Coffee and chat at Wests	10am—Convicts in Australia 12.30-1.55pm—Library open 2.00pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm—Snippers	1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00—Feedback meeting Journal 246/planning meeting Journal 247	Library closed for King's birthday long weekend
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
King's Birthday long weekend	King's Birthday long weekend	1pm—Scottish SIG		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open	11.00am—Old Courthouse, Minmi followed by lunch at the Courthouse Restaurant	10am-3pm—Library open Submissions due for July newsletter
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm—Snippers	10am—Management Committee 1-3pm—Library open	9.30am-3.30pm—Publications printing	10am-3pm—Library open
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	9.30-11.30am—Library Group			10am—Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm—Library open
30						

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July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Red—SIG Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple— Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events		10am—Convicts in Australia 12.30-1.55pm— Library open 2.00pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm— Snippers	1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm—Library open
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	9.30- 11.30am— Library Group	1pm—Scottish SIG		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm—Library open Submissions due for August newsletter
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am— Management Committee 1-3pm—Library open	9.30am- 3.30pm— Publications printing	10am-3pm—Library open
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	9.30- 11.30am— Library Group	10am—Irish Ancestors		10am— Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm—Library open Articles due for Journal 247
28	29	30	31			

Disclaimer

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